

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 03315 110433Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /029 W

-----120636Z 001514 /21

R 110059Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0385

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3315

FOL RCVD CANBERRA FROM MELBOURNE 10 MAY 77.

PASSED FOR YOUR INFO

QTE MELBOURNE 1067

FOR POLITICAL SECTION FROM LABOR OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJ: NEWPORT POWER STATION RE-EMERGES AS BASIS FOR MAJOR
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND VICTORIAN
GOVT

1. ON MAY 5 VICTORIAN TRADES HALL COUNCIL (VTHC) VOTED TO
REJECT (ON NOT-VERY-CONVICING TECHNICAL GROUNDS) PRO-NEWPORT
FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF 4-MAN REVIEW PANEL ISSUED LAST WEEK
OF APRIL AND BY SO DOING FULLY RESTORED NEWPORT AS BASIS FOR
MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND
VICTORIAN GOVT.

2. IN RESPONSE, VICTORIAN GOVT ANNOUNCED MAY 9 THAT IT
WOULD PROCEED WITH PLANS (SHELVED LAST DECEMBER WHEN VTHC
AGREED TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION OF REVIEW PANEL) TO PROCLAIM
VITAL STATE PROJECTS ACT AND TO DECLARE NEWPORT "VITAL STATE
PROJECT". ACT IMPOSES FINES OF UP TO DOLS 50,000 ON UNIONS
AND DOLS 10,000 ON INDIVIDUALS FOUND GUILTY OF OBSTRUCTING
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VITAL PROJECTS (WITH JAIL AS UNSPECIFIED ULTIMATE SANCTION).

3. COMMENT: WITH NATIONWIDE CONFRONTATION LOOMING UP OVER
FRASER GOVT'S PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BUREAU (IRB) ONE
OF LAST THINGS COUNTRY NEEDS AT THIS TIME IS STATE-LEVEL
POWER STRUGGLE OVER NEWPORT. CYNICS, OF COURSE, HAVE BEGUN
TO MAKE POINT THAT CONFRONTATION IS GRIST FOR FRASER'S

LEGISLATIVE MILL (HENCE WELCOME TO GOVT IN LEFT-HANDED
SORT OF WAY) SINCE PUBLIC ALMOST ALWAYS PLACES BLAME FOR
DISRUPTION OF UNIONS. BRAND UNQTE.
PERCIVAL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, REFERENDUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CANBER03315
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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